

A new start!

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Dear readers,

International Ophthalmology has gone through a difficult period and it became clear that major changes were needed to make it an attractive journal again both for the readers and for those wishing to submit their scientific work. As the new editors, we agreed on a number of measures.

A new editorial board was recruited including some of the hard working people in the previous board together with a considerable number of enthusiastic new collaborators. The activities of the editorial board will be coordinated by five associate editors.

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In order to avoid confusion about the aims and the scope of the journal, we decided to add an extension to the title which now reads as: “International Ophthalmology, the International Journal of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences”. To enhance the readability of the journal, we will try to structure the content of each issue in the following sections:

1. Editorial
2. Reviews
3. Original articles

Clinical sciences

Laboratory sciences

4. Case reports, small series and short articles
5. Perspective or “How to do it”
6. Controversies in ophthalmology
7. Letters to the editors and correspondence
8. Photo essay or mystery case

This format will progressively be adhered to in the coming issues. At this point the contents of the next issues are still made of articles accepted by the previous editorship.

Special issues proved to be a success formula in the past and hence we want to preserve the tradition of editing at least one such issue per year. We will not necessarily maintain this format for these special issues.

A chronic problem in the past has been the unacceptable long delay in the decision process. The new editorial board has set itself the goal of processing the majority of papers within a 4 months period. Two major changes from the past situation are instrumental in obtaining this goal: whereas in the past the bulk of the work was done by one or two persons, the rejuvenation and the expansion of the editorial board will allow for a more even distribution of the workload. The switch to a completely electronic review system is another key factor to reduce the processing time of the manuscripts.

The Journal will be linked to medical societies and will function as their official publication. The societies will privilege the journal with the submissions of their articles whenever possible.

The first medical society to be linked to International Ophthalmology is the Society for Ophthalmo-Immunoinfectiology in Europe (SOIE, www:soie-soif.org). As other societies will be linked to the journal, the orientation of the journal with regard to the subjects of its articles will progressively specialize. In the coming issues, articles in relation with all aspects of ocular inflammation will be privileged.

We are confident that these changes and other ones to come will greatly enhance the level of International Ophthalmology, the International Journal of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, making it an attractive journal both for readers and authors.